



Executive Director of
Education
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Our Ref MMcK/SMcC Your Ref
Date 17 February 2021

Parents/Carer – Secondary

Dear Parent/Carer

SECONDARY SCHOOL UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2021

I last wrote to you all at the beginning of term about details on remote learning due to the current lockdown restrictions and promised to keep you updated.

As you may be aware, the Scottish Government has confirmed there will be a phased reopening of schools and face to face teaching from Monday 22 February for a part time return for a small percentage of senior phase pupils who require to complete work as part of their SQA qualifications. Secondary schools will remain open for key worker young people and those young people who would benefit in other year groups.

For the time being S1 – S3 young people will remain at home with remote learning packages in place.

The First Minister said yesterday that a further announcement on the next phased return to school will be made on Tuesday 2 March, but it was unlikely that any more pupils will return to face to face learning before Monday 15 March.

I know that this news will bring a mixture of emotions for young people and their parents, but I want to reassure our families that our schools and school staff will continue to do the very best they can to support your child's learning during these challenging times.

Our senior pupils will also be anxious about their SQA assessments and yesterday it was announced that the deadline for teachers submitting provisional results has been extended again to Friday 25 June.

My message to pupils remains the same to focus on learning and teaching at this time.

Our school staff are ready to welcome young people back – with updated risk assessments for school buildings and in accordance with the updated advice and guidance published by the Scottish Government.

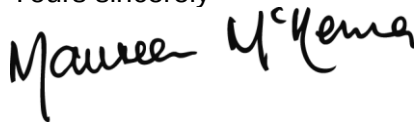
This includes enhanced voluntary testing for all school staff and senior pupils. Your school will have sent separate details home to senior pupils with information and consent forms for testing.

Your child's school will continue to be in touch with any updates and I want to take this opportunity again to thank all our families, children and young people for their continued support as we do all that we can to help suppress the virus.

We have now reached a milestone – a year living with this pandemic – but with the roll out of the vaccine and a decrease of infection rates we just need to keep going for a little while longer.

I will be back in touch with updated information in the next couple of weeks and please contact your school if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen McKenna". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MAUREEN McKENNA
Executive Director of Education